



STATE OF MAINE  
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS  
AND ELECTION PRACTICES  
135 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0135

**Agenda**

**Meeting of July 19, 2006**

9:00 a.m., Commission Offices, 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine

**ROUTINE BUSINESS**

**1. Ratification of minutes of the June 22, 2006 meeting**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. Request for Investigation re: Constituent Newsletter/Sen. Philip L. Bartlett**

Daniel Hoffses filed a request for an investigation regarding a mailing of Sen. Philip L. Bartlett, which Mr. Hoffses argues benefited Sen. Bartlett's re-election campaign. The senator responded that the mailing was a constituent newsletter sent in order to inform his constituents about the work of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Legislature. *Staff recommendation: consistent with the Commission's vote at the June 22 meeting concerning constituent mailings, the staff recommends taking no action on the request.*

**3. Request for Investigation re: Constituent Newsletter/Rep. Lawrence Bliss**

Paul Nixon filed a request for an investigation regarding a mailing of his opponent, Rep. Lawrence Bliss. Rep. Bliss responded that that the mailing was a constituent newsletter sent in order to communicate with his constituents. *Staff recommendation: consistent with the Commission's vote at the June 22 meeting concerning constituent mailings, the staff recommends taking no action on the request.*

**4. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty/George Thomson**

George Thomson ran against Randall Greenwood in the Republican primary election for House, District #80. Because Mr. Thomson was privately financed and Mr. Greenwood was participating in the Maine Clean Election Act, Mr. Thomson was required to file a 101% Report when his contributions – or his expenditures plus obligations – exceeded \$1,519. The Commission staff believes Mr. Thomson was 8 days late in filing the 101% Report. *Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends assessing a penalty of \$253.70.*

**5. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty/Richard Wurfel**

Richard Wurfel is a professional firefighter who registered as a lobbyist this year to advocate for a bill concerning retirement benefits. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, he was one month late filing his monthly lobbyist report due May 15<sup>th</sup>. The preliminary penalty amount for this violation is \$100. He asks for a waiver of the penalty because of his exhaustion at the conclusion of the legislation session and other personal reasons. Previously, Mr. Wurfel asked the Commission for a waiver of an earlier \$100 penalty for the late filing of his March 15 report. The Commission declined to grant a waiver, and Mr. Wurfel paid the \$100 penalty. *Staff recommendation: the staff reserves making any recommendation until after Mr. Wurfel has explained the circumstances to the Commission.*

**Other**

Miscellaneous as needed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

If necessary

**ADJOURNMENT**

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**PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON CONSTITUENT NEWSLETTERS**

At its last meeting on June 22, 2006, the Commission decided to hold a public workshop on proposing a statute or rule distinguishing constituent newsletters from campaign materials. The staff sent out an invitation to legislative leaders and staff.